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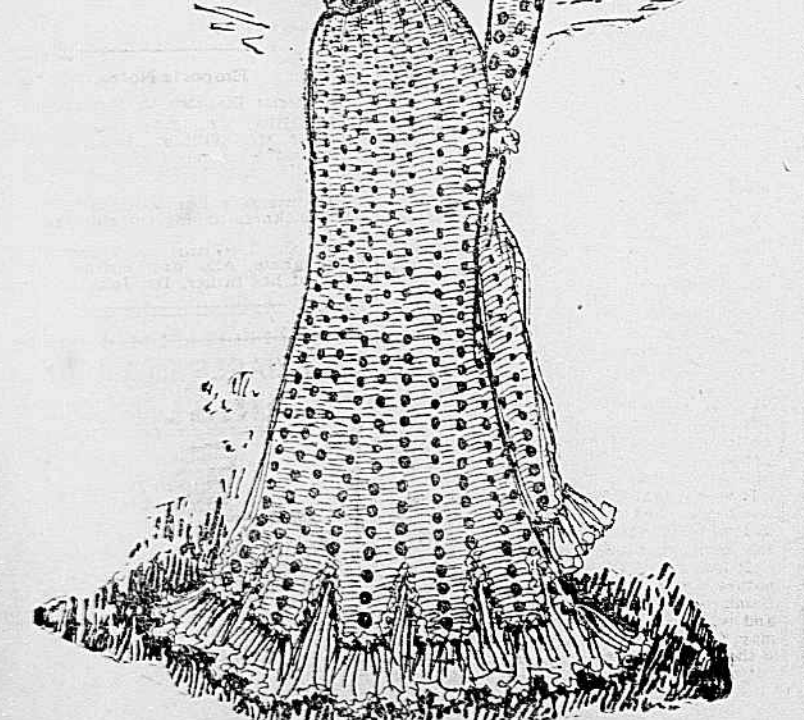
WHAT THEY ARE WEARING IN FAIR PARIS

Fashion's Fancies and Follies When the Thermometer Indicates the Days of Midsummer.

PARIS, July 14.—Latterly along the Rue d'Alfred any pleasant day one sees the most exquisite costumes. Yet it is a fact that the mind wanders away from the styles, away from ruffles and tuck and insertion, into a contemplation of the enchanting materials from which these costumes are made.

That which at first sight appeared to consist of row after row of silk and lace, carefully joined and alternated with bands of satin, proves to be, upon closer inspection, a fabric woven in one piece, and bought by the yard for the fashioning of handsome gowns. Sometimes the appearance will deceive you, and it is only upon actually passing the fingers over the fabric that you can detect the difference between the applique and woven goods, between insertion and cunningly cut and stamped goods.

It is as if the manufacturers of all nations had suddenly awakened to the possibilities of machinery, and were devoting their entire time and labor to the reproduction of elegant fabrics. Useless now the modiste's art, idle the embroidery needle, for the goods can be purchased by the yard for less cost than a single hand-width could be worked; and the whole is improved.



This charming gown is of imperial blue foulard printed with graduated dots. The skirt is slashed to show a deep flounce of pale blue taffeta, while the bodice is cut with a V-shaped aperture to reveal a vest of blue taffeta embroidered with white silk. There are black velvet strappings upon the waist which terminate in tiny rosettes upon the shoulders. A large black velvet hat, made of chenille and straw and trimmed with plumes, is worn with this costume.



CREAM FOULARD FIGURED IN DARK BLUE, FOR EARLY AUTUMN WEAR.

measurably more elegant and chic. The painted muslin, the embroidered chiffons and the metal appliques are the substitutes in goods that are shown by the yard.

One instance of this will show the extent to which the art of manufacture has been brought. Into the very center of a piece of pearl gray cashmere was woven a lace



A GOWN FOR LATE SUMMER.

figure. The figure was repeated at intervals of a few inches, making an exceedingly rich goods. By this art the necessity for appliques with cut-out work and jewelry was entirely obviated, and the result was even better.

CHEAP SUBSTITUTES. But these goods are unfortunately expensive. Instead of being for the wearing many, they are for the fortunate few. From \$2 to \$5 per yard they run, and no one can accuse a \$5 fabric, nor a \$2 one for that matter, of being cheap, when applied to the making of a summer gown, with its perishableness and its short life. As the season advances, the money fades in color; its material becomes inappropriate, its weight inadequate, and with the first knell of September it is dead—dead as the leaves upon the trees.

With a winter gown it is different; and a dress well selected as to color and material can be carried through several seasons without becoming an antique. It is on account of the short life of the new summer fabrics, and their expense, that the modistes have devised clever little ways of imitating the more costly materials. The silk muslins, for example, which come inlaid with bunches and sprays of flowers, are nicely simulated at home by sewing silk sprays over a plain silky surface, whether it be real silk muslin or its cheaper imitations. To avoid much needlework these sprays need not be placed close together, but can be set some inches apart, not more than two being needed for the back of a bodice and only four for the skirted front. The skirt can have a spray applied here and there at irregular intervals.

The most elegant piques come with large polka dots embroidered in silk. The dots are of different sizes, and of various colors, all shades being seen upon one dress. Pique of this description is expensive, but, if the dots are embroidered by hand, the work is not nearly so dear nor is it as difficult. Even satin applique, that most expensive of all fabrics, can be imitated.

The real satin applique consists of a satin design brought out upon a white background. Stripes and flowers are used. But an imitation satin antique can be made by appliqueing satin stripes upon a plain taffeta background, and by appliqueing satin flowers—which have been cut out of old bits of material—to the white ground.

It is a lot of work, grant you, but the gowns of to-day are by no means plain ones, and, to be in the fashion, you must go to all the fuss of Dams Fashion's fancies.

NEW GOWNS. Yet the great makers of the fashions will tell you that the gowns of to-day with all their elegance, do not approach those of other days in point of actual handwork. "Take the embroidered dresses of ten years ago, and they were more work," they will tell you; "or select those of the days when the finest cut beads were attached to the gown at intervals too small to admit the touching of the tip of the finger to the goods, or yet the days when ruffles were the rage and when a flounced skirt was a thing which required the work of weeks."

where she could have found a modiste ready to turn out so many and such artistic ones. One of her gowns was of a decidedly novel texture and might have been one of the new satin striped poplins which come now in all the shades. The dress is light weight and very summery, though by no means a wash fabric.

Another very new gown was one worn by an American woman. It was of Javanese crepe, that new material which is woven in horizontal tucks, the idea being to do away with all tucking by hand. Of course, the tucks were absolutely accurate and were exceedingly chic, made so as to run horizontally across the vest and on the perpendicular in coat and skirt.

The first gowns of fall may show a return to the very long lines that once prevailed. One of the very latest models, exhibited by a Paris designer to several private patrons, was fashioned of Lansdowne cloth, very soft and delicate in texture, and absolutely lustrous. This fabric is one of the season's novelties, and will be much in vogue this autumn.

The plan of the gown was decidedly novel. It was a Princess, without break from neck to hem. The sleeves, which were plain, were slightly wrinkled to the wrists, but the sleeve caps and the yoke were exquisitely traced with silver braiding. The gown, it may be stated, was a pearl blue, upon which this silver embroidery set well.

The novel feature lay in the tucking, which began at the bust and extended in long straight tucks, very narrow and very tightly stitched, so as to look almost like cords, right down to a point below the knees. Below this the gown flared and lay upon the ground, very long in front and back.

Upon the bust were two very large roses of shell pink panne velvet, so attached as to stand out in beautiful relief. Such a gown as this, while too light for the street wear of the practical woman, might be imitated, say in Roman blue cloth, with black velvet braiding, with roses of deep red velvet.

Hats this fall will do well off the face and with strings. The day of the string is at hand. If wide, the strings are made of tulle or chiffon, and are attached to the back of the hat and brought forward under the chin, and sometimes wound around several times. If they are made of narrow bands of velvet, these velvet streamers are caught upon the front of the gown in a picturesque bow.

Public School Question.

Editor of The Times:—I think the statistical reports of the State Superintendent might be improved, and in this paper I shall try to point out in what particulars.

The fundamental fact upon which any intelligent effort for the education of the people is to be based, is the census necessarily upon a report of the number of people to be educated.

The law counts all between five and twenty-one years of age as people to be educated by the State, and the school census-taker must make his report conform to the law, but it would be folly to assume that educational provision must be made for all reported in the school census. It would be as big a mistake for the Superintendent of Schools to do this as it would be for the commissary general of an army to provide rations for all who were liable to military service.

Again, the public school system of Virginia does not enforce the attendance of the pupil. It is clear then that the census lists, as taken, must include a great number of people who cannot, will not or need not go to the public schools. Of those are the boys who have completed their primary studies and are engaged in business or agriculture, the girls who are married, are teaching or are doing something else, and then a large number who do not care for an education and will not go to school. Now if all these were eliminated and classified, as should be done in the case of those who had finished the primary course, the problem of the education of the people would not appear to be so large, and could be solved in a more intelligent fashion than as now.

The Superintendent reports the school population for 1899 as 655,825, and the school attendance as 263,139, not quite 40 per cent. "Oh, monstrous!" but one half-penny worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sausage I make no claim that the school census report, presenting as it did, so exaggerated a picture of the work to be done, was one of the factors that led the Superintendent and his predecessors to countenance and

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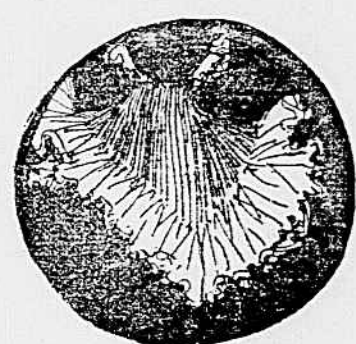
G ARE MADE WITH LOW POINTED HANDSOME COSTUMES FOR EVENING WEAR. THE DEEP GIRDLE GIVING A CURIOUSLY OLD-FASHIONED LOOK TO THE SUMMER GIRL OF 1900.



The first figure shows a gown of pink painted silk muslin cut with demi-train. The sash is of panne velvet applique with cream and cut out underneath. A bertha of plaited chiffon finishes the very low neck. The second gown is of plain white organdie. The corsage has a lace piece applique upon the front and is supported on the shoulders by narrow white silk shoulder straps. A very narrow white satin belt is also worn. The third gown is composed of pink organdie and cream lace in delightful combination.

permit the extraordinary, and as since admitted, unnecessary increase in the number of public schools.

I think that in reporting enrolment as only one-half and attendance as less than one-third, the Superintendent supplied himself with a basis of fact which ought to have restrained him and his predecessors in the study of the school system of the past. I can find no fact to warrant the conclusion that any other motive ruled them than the desire to prove progress in the public school system by an annual showing of an increase in the number of public schools. I suppose some will object to my holding the present Superintendent of Schools equally blameworthy with his predecessors for the admittedly hurtful increase in public schools, because he admits the evil. My contention is that he knew the evil and had power to redress it



THE LATEST AND NEATEST DESIGN FOR DRESSING UP AN OLD SILK WAIST.

and did not. Each teacher makes a monthly report to his County Superintendent upon a form supplied by the State Superintendent.

A good form would show all the facts that go to make a good school, i. e., the number of pupils enrolled, the number of these pupils who attend every day, etc.

Everybody that knows anything about a school knows that the pupils who profit most are those who come regularly. By introducing the seemingly innocuous phrase "average attendance," by one but the County Superintendent and the teacher would be able to say whether any single child in that school had attended continuously through the month or term. I have examined hundreds of these teachers' reports, and can say truthfully that few of the pupils attended the school twelve days out of the twenty, and very few as many as eighteen days. This matter of irregular attendance seems to have been something not worth the attention of the State Superintendent, as he only uses the paper to report average daily attendance.

I knew a colored teacher who hired the children of one family to go to school one week, and the children of another family the next week. This practice of his straightened his monthly report in the matter of average attendance. Irregular attendance, which destroys the efficiency of the schools, is a matter of no concern to the perfunctory teacher, but I submit that it does not concern the public, and should as far as may be prevented.

I tried, as County Superintendent, to break up the evil of irregular attendance by ordering the teachers to suspend pupils

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and, therefore, requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally, it acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

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from the schools who were absent three or four days in the month without valid excuse. The evil was abated somewhat, but I did not succeed as I would had I been backed by central authority.

This paper concludes my criticism of the Board of Education and of the State Superintendent.

I charged that it was the failure to fix a territorial unit for a school district, as required by the Constitution, which led to the hurtful multiplication of county schools. In these papers I have assailed the financial and statistical forms of the State Superintendent as unsatisfactory and confusing. I leave it all to the public.

It concerns the people; they must decide. But, I protest that I am not open to the charge of hostility to the public free school system.

I gave twenty-one years of my life to their service, and I honestly strove to make them better. I think my neighbors will say, "The free schools are a great instrumentality for the good of the people. I think they have been miserably mismanaged, and I propose to submit a scheme before I am done, for putting them upon a more satisfactory and efficient basis."

In the next paper I shall discuss the subject of free school legislation.

R. C. SAUNDERS.

Evinston, Va.



THE NEW BOLERO AND GIRDLE.